Steel Plants in M . P.

4001. SHRI DEVENDER PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up to two steel plants in Bastar District, Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). Government has no proposal to set up steel plants in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh. The new industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, has removed 'iron and steel' from the list of industries reserved for the public sector and also exempted it from the requirements of compulsory licensing. Government approval for industrial licence to set up steel plants in the private or joint sector is, therefore, not required provided the location is not within 25 kms of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per the 1991 census.

[*Translation*]

Solar Energy Plants

4003. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWR AND NON–CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on December 9, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 2923 and state:

(a) whether there has been constant demand for solar energy plants in most of the villages of these districts due to lack of the facility of electrification;

(b) if so, whether the Union government propose to provide more assistance to the State Government to expedite for setting up of the proposed plant in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF POWER AND NON–CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c). Several request are received by the State Non–Conventional Energy Development Agency, U.P. for installation of solar energy plants in villages in the hilly districts of the State. The Union Government is meeting the cost of the solar photovoltaic modules used in such plants. Proposals received from the State Government for the installation of power plants in additional villages are considered and supported on this basis, subject to availability of financial resources.

Subsidy on Newsprint

4004. SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give subsidy to newsprint for the survival of small newspapers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Alleged Misappropriation in Telecom Training Centre Ghaziabad

4005. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: